

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated:

1. (currently amended) A method in a data processing system for managing a messaging session, said method comprising the steps of:

a data processing system receiving a plurality of characters from a message sender within the messaging session, wherein the plurality of characters forms a portion of a message within the messaging session;

the data processing system determining that the number of characters of the received plurality of characters is at least equal to a preset number of characters; and

in response to said determining, the data processing system automatically transmitting the plurality of characters to a message recipient within the messaging session without receipt of a send command from the message sender signifying completion of composition of the message.

2. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of transmitting includes:

transmitting an indication that the transmitted plurality of characters forms only a portion of the message.

3. (original) The method according to claim 2, wherein the indication is a predefined character appended to the plurality of characters.

4. (original) The method according to claim 1, said method further comprising the steps of:

concatenating another plurality of characters that forms a portion of the message to the transmitted plurality of characters, thereby creating concatenated characters; and

transmitting the concatenated characters to the message recipient within the messaging session.

5. (original) The method according to claim 4, said method further comprising the step

of:

determining that the number of characters of the another plurality of characters is at least equal to a preset number of characters; and

wherein the step of concatenating is performed once it is determined that the number of characters of the another plurality of characters is at least equal to the preset number of characters.

6. (original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of determining that the end of the message is not contained within the plurality of characters.

7. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the message sender defines the preset number of characters.

8. (currently amended) A data processing system for managing a messaging session, said system comprising:

means for receiving a plurality of characters from a message sender within the messaging session, wherein the plurality of characters forms a portion of a message within the messaging session;

means for determining that the number of characters of the received plurality of characters is at least equal to a preset number of characters; and

means, responsive to said determining, for automatically transmitting the plurality of characters to a message recipient within the messaging session without receipt of a send command from the message sender signifying completion of composition of the message.

9. (original) The data processing system according to claim 8, wherein the means for transmitting includes:

transmitting an indication that the transmitted plurality of characters forms only a portion of the message.

10. (original) The data processing system according to claim 9, wherein the indication is a predefined character appended to the plurality of characters.

11. (original) The data processing system according to claim 8, further comprising means for:

means for concatenating another plurality of characters that forms a portion of the message to the transmitted plurality of characters, thereby creating concatenated characters; and

means for transmitting the concatenated characters to the message recipient within the messaging session.

12. (original) The data processing system according to claim 11, further comprising:

means for determining that the number of characters of the another plurality of characters is at least equal to a preset number of characters; and

wherein the step of concatenating is performed once it is determined that the number of characters of the another plurality of characters is at least equal to the preset number of characters.

13. (original) The data processing system according to claim 8, further comprising means for determining that the end of the message is not contained within the plurality of characters.

14. (original) The data processing system according to claim 8, wherein the message sender defines the preset number of characters.

15. (currently amended) An article of manufacture comprising a volatile or non-volatile machine-readable medium including program logic ~~embedded~~ encoded therein that causes ~~control circuitry~~ a data processing system to perform the steps of:

receiving a plurality of characters from a message sender within the messaging session, wherein the plurality of characters forms a portion of a message within the messaging session;

determining that the number of characters of the received plurality of characters is at least equal to a preset number of characters; and

in response to said determining, automatically transmitting the plurality of characters to a message recipient within the messaging session without receipt of a send command from the message sender signifying completion of composition of the message.

16. (original) The article of manufacture of Claim 15, wherein the step of transmitting includes:

transmitting an indication that the transmitted plurality of characters forms only a portion of the message.

17. (original) The article of manufacture of Claim 16, wherein the indication is a predefined character appended to the plurality of characters.

18. (original) The article of manufacture of Claim 15, further comprising the steps of:

concatenating another plurality of characters that forms a portion of the message to the transmitted plurality of characters, thereby creating concatenated characters; and

transmitting the concatenated characters to the message recipient within the messaging session.

19. (original) The article of manufacture of Claim 18, further comprising the step of:
determining that the number of characters of the another plurality of characters is at least equal to a preset number of characters; and
wherein the step of concatenating is performed once it is determined that the number of characters of the another plurality of characters is at least equal to the preset number of characters.
20. (original) The article of manufacture of Claim 15, further comprising the step of:
determining that the end of the message is not contained within the plurality of characters.
21. (original) The article of manufacture of Claim 15, wherein the message sender defines the preset number of characters.